



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety  
and Inspection  
Service

Washington, D.C.  
20250

DEC 19 2005

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Mr. Jeff Simonsen  
6061 K Avenue  
Quimby, Iowa 51049-7031

Dear Mr. Simonsen:

Thank you for your November 3, 2005, letter to Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns regarding the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) proposed new feed rules concerning BSE. Secretary Johanns has requested that the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) respond to your concerns.

FSIS is the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) public health regulatory agency responsible for ensuring that meat, poultry, and processed egg products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled. FSIS enforces the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, which require Federal inspection and regulation of meat, poultry, and processed egg products prepared for distribution in commerce for use as human food.

The protection of the food supply for all consumers is of primary importance at FSIS. The Agency believes that the strong enforcement of regulations governing BSE protects the American consumer by preventing prohibited materials from entering the human food supply.

The Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regulates animal feed. The proposed rule you mention in your letter, "Substances Prohibited from Use in Animal Food or Feed", Docket No. 2002N-0273, CVM 2005, issued October 6, 2005, may be viewed on the FDA web site at <http://www.fda.gov>. Since the comment period for this rule ends December 20, 2005, we are forwarding your letter to FDA for their timely consideration as a comment on the rule. For more information, you may wish to contact Burt Pritchett, Veterinary Medical Officer, by telephone at 240-453-6860, or you may write him at the Center for Veterinary Medicine (HFV-222), Food and Drug Administration, 7519 Standish Pl., Rockville, Maryland 20855.

We hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Philip S. Derfler  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy, Program, and Employee Development

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**Food Safety Questions? Ask Karen!**

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food safety information 24/7

November 3, 2005

Secretary Mike Johanns  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Johanns,

I am writing to urge you to resist the FDA's proposed new feed rules concerning BSE. These new rules will be devastating to the rendering industry.

My family has operated a rendering plant near Quimby, Iowa since 1929. My grandfather, who started the business, was lucky. All he had to contend with was the Great Depression. He didn't have to deal with Washington bureaucrats who had never been west of the beltway.

I realize that excludes you since you grew up on an Iowa dairy farm. Did your dad ever call a rendering company to remove a dead cow? What are dairies going to do now with their dead cows? Ever try to compost a 1500 pound cow? It takes up to fourteen months to do it properly.

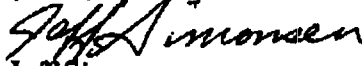
My point is this: The 1997 rule restricting meat and bone meal from cattle rations was and is working. Leave it alone! The rendering industry can live with it. We all can live with it.

Carol Tucker Foreman may get her panties in a twist but to hell with her. Her side lost the last two elections. It's time somebody in Washington had the common sense and the guts to stand up to people like her and tell them that the rules in place are working. BSE is not a big problem and we are going to continue with the reasonable rules already in place.

I realize this is not the politically correct stance so it probably has about a zero percent chance of happening in today's Washington.

Kinda makes a guy yearn for the Great Depression.

Sincerely



Jeff Simonsen

6061 K Ave.

Quimby, Iowa 51049

Third generation renderer